

Appln No. 10/726,330
Amdt date February 6, 2007
Reply to Office action of November 29, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 and 21-22 are pending. Claims 19 and 20 are canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 12-16, 21 and 22 are amended.

The drawings are objected. In view of the amendments to the drawings suggested by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to. In view of the amendments suggested by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn. Due to the number of amendments, a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.125 and MPEP § 608.01(q) is submitted herewith to facilitate the prosecution of this application. No new matter is added. The substitute specification is accompanied by a marked-up copy showing the changes between the substitute specification filed May 17, 2004, as filed, and the substitute specification. Applicant respectfully request that the substitute specification be entered in this case.

Claims 1-12 are objected to because of informalities. In view of the amendments to the above claims suggested by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

Claims 19-20 are canceled as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 5-11 and 16-22 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wielandy et al. Claims 2-3 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wielany in view of Adams et al. (US 6,889,347). Applicant submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

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Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "an autocorrelator to autocorrelate a signal light output from the dispersion compensator and output a control signal," and "a controller to input the control signal output by the autocorrelator and control the dispersion compensator to increase the autocorrelation of the optical autocorrelator."

Wielandy does not teach the above limitations. Rather, the autocorrelator of Wielandy is used "in experimental demonstration" as an input receiver to "characterise laser pulses." (See, caption of Fig. 2.). In other words, this autocorrelator is disposed only to substitute an optical receiver and not to control the TDC-1. More specifically, the autocorrelator of Wielandy does NOT "autocorrelate a signal light output from the dispersion compensator and output a control signal." Furthermore, the feedback (alleged controller) of Wielandy does NOT "input the control signal output by the autocorrelator and control the dispersion compensator to increase the autocorrelation of the optical autocorrelator."

As a result, amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Wielandy.

Amended independent claim 12 includes, among other limitations, "autocorrelating an output signal light from the dispersion compensator," "generating a control signal from autocorrelating the output signal light," and "controlling the dispersion compensator by the control signal to increase the autocorrelation."

As explained above, Wielandy dose not teach the above limitation. Consequently, amended independent claim 12 is not anticipated by Wielandy either.

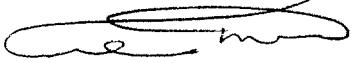
Dependent claims 2-4, and 13-15 are dependent from allowable independent claims 1 and 12, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their base claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from an allowable independent claim and for the additional limitations they include therein.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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